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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello. As a user of an Apple computer for many years, I have watched in dismay as we have been squeezed into a smaller and smaller corner. I don't think that people outside the field realize the tremendous pressure that Microsoft has put on everyone else.

The basic fact is that computers are interconnected. More and more interaction and complexity is the wave of the future. If one company has monopoly control of the standards, and control means any power to create incompatibility for others, then we will be looking at a 100% monopoly in the not too distant future.

It is only in education at the moment that Microsoft does not have a crushing monopoly. Allowing them to give their software to schools is not a punishment for them. It costs them almost nothing to give software to schools, especially to schools which could not afford it otherwise, and they have money to burn in any case. It is control they are after. Only the government has the power to stop them at this point. That in itself says something about their stranglehold on the industry.

Please do not encourage them to expand their monopoly. That is not what this country is about.

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